



Patent

Docket Number 191.0014001

"Tramp Board"

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates generally to a device used on a trampoline. Specifically, the invention relates to a board for playing or performing acrobatics on a trampoline.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 Figure 1 shows a perspective side view of one embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 shows a side view of one embodiment of the invention.

Figure 3 shows one embodiment of the invention in use.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

15 For the purpose of promoting an understanding of the present invention, reference will be made to embodiments of the invention, as illustrated in the figures. It will nevertheless be understood that no limitations on the scope of the invention are thereby intended. Such alterations as changing the geometry of the invention or changing the placement of the securing members (i.e., the mechanism for holding a user's feet in place) or the material of the parts of the
20 board are alterations, which are intended to come within the spirit and scope of the invention. Moreover, with particular reference to the figures, the reader

should understand that like numerals in the various figures refer to the same elements of the embodiment.

Figure 1 shows a perspective side view of one embodiment of the invention. Board 6, in the embodiment shown, is made of a foam material which is lightweight, durable, and flexible. One of ordinary skill in the art will readily appreciate that other lightweight, durable, and/or flexible materials, such as polyurethane, could be used to construct board 6. Moreover, in the embodiment shown in Figure 1, board 6 is constructed in a substantially oval shape. However, one of ordinary skill in the art will readily appreciate that board 6 could be constructed in a wide variety of shapes. By way of example and not limitation, the device could be generally circular, rectangular (with or without rounded edges), hexagonal, or elliptical, as long as the edges are not sharp so as to avoid damaging the trampoline.

In the embodiment of Figure 1, top surface 9 of board 6 is covered by a non-slip gripping layer 8 and allows the user's feet to avoid slipping. In this embodiment, non-slip gripping layer 8, which is pliable and soft to the touch, is attached to top surface 9 with an adhesive. One of ordinary skill in the art will readily recognize that other means of attachment could be used to securely fix non-slip gripping layer 8 to top surface 9 of board 6. In another embodiment, board 6 is constructed of a non-slip material, thereby making the adhesion of a non-slip gripping layer unnecessary.

Referring further to the embodiment depicted in Figure 1, board 6 is further comprised of two adjustable securing members 7, which are attached to

non-slip gripping layer 8 on top surface 9 of board 6. The material chosen for securing members 7 should provide strength and flexibility so as not to break or pinch the feet when in use, as well as absorb the impact of the trampoline, e.g., a rubber or rubber-like material. Other materials from which to make securing members 7 include, but are not limited to, plastics, leather, foam, and nylon or other synthetic materials. Moreover, securing members 7 include an adjustment mechanism such as straps with a buckle, a stretchable material, a hook-and-loop mechanism, or any other means known to those of ordinary skill in the art to provide adjustability to accommodate various sizes of a user's feet.

Furthermore, securing members 7 can include a second securing member, heel securing member 17, which holds the heel in place to provide additional support for the user's feet. In one embodiment, securing members 7 each include heel securing member 17 parallel to and spaced behind each securing member 7. Heel securing member 17 is typically made of the same material as the front securing member, but can be of another material. The heel securing member is secured to board 6 by any of the means used to attach securing members 7 to board 6, discussed infra. In addition, because of its relatively short length, the heel securing member may or may not have an adjustment mechanism.

In an alternate embodiment, securing member 7 is a single band that is long enough and is secured to board 6 wide enough to allow both of the user's feet to be secured between it and board 6. The single securing member is

constructed of materials and with the same characteristics as securing members 7, described supra.

One of ordinary skill in the art will readily appreciate that adjustable securing members 7 could be secured to top surface 9 of board 6 using as little
5 as one attachment for each securing member 7. In one embodiment, securing members 7 are attached to board 6 by feeding each end of each securing member 7 through non-slip gripping layer 8 and board 6 (or just board 6 if board 6 is constructed of a non-slip material), and tying securing member 7 off on the bottom side of board 6. In an alternate embodiment, the bottom (not shown) of
10 board 6 has a recess for each end of securing members 7 so that the ends do not protrude from the bottom of board 6. An alternate attachment mechanism for attaching securing members 7 to board 6 is through the use of a screw. However, if a screw is used to attach securing members 7 to board 6, the screw should not protrude from the bottom of board 6 so as to avoid damaging the
15 trampoline when in use. In an embodiment in which the screw does protrude, the protruding portion of the screw can be covered with a smooth covering known to one of ordinary skill in the art so as to prevent damaging the trampoline.

In the embodiment of Figure 1, holes 16 are present on non-slip gripping layer 8 and board 6 to allow the passing of each end of securing member 7 to the
20 bottom portion of board 6 in order to allow a user to secure their feet to board 6. In one alternate embodiment, securing member penetrates only non-slip gripping layer 8, but before it is secured to board 6, such that the portion of securing member that protrudes beyond non-slip gripping layer 8 would be sandwiched

between board 6 and non-slip gripping layer 8. In a variation of this embodiment, board 6 has a recess to accommodate the that portion of securing member 7 that protrudes beyond non-slip gripping layer 8 so as to provide a smooth joining of board 6 and non-slip gripping layer 8. However, if board 6 is constructed of a non-slip material, the holes that allow securing members 7 to penetrate board 6 and be tied off at the bottom surface would penetrate the entire thickness of board 6.

Alternatively, securing members 7 are adjustable straps, allowing multiple users to use the same board 6 by merely adjusting securing members 7 to fit their own feet. Moreover, as can be seen in the embodiment of Figure 1, securing members 7 are arranged at an angle relative to one another in order to allow the user to maintain balance when using board 6. However, securing members 7 need not be aligned at an angle relative to the length of board 6.

Figure 2 shows a side view of one embodiment of board 6 in which the curve of board 6 can be observed more readily. Board 6 has front end 10 and back end 11. Both front end 10 and back end 11 are curved slightly upward relative to the center of board 6 forming a substantially shallow and generally elongated U-shape. This shape aids in the aerodynamics of jumping by allowing less air resistance than a flat board. In addition, the curve of board 6 more closely conforms to the shape of the trampoline when in use and prevents the slapping of board 6 against the trampoline that might occur if the user lands on the trampoline unevenly (i.e., on one of the ends rather than the center of board 6). This could jostle the user and potentially lead to injury. However, one of

ordinary skill will recognize that board 6 can be flat if the material selected to construct board 6 of is sufficiently flexible to account for this.

Figure 2 also shows one manner in which securing members 7 can be tied to bottom surface 15 of board 6. However, one of ordinary skill in the art will
5 readily appreciate that securing members 7 can be connected to board 6 by other means as disclosed supra. In this embodiment, securing members 7 are constructed of rubber, a rubber-like material, or some other sufficiently sturdy and flexible material. In an alternate embodiment, securing members 7 are constructed of the same material as non-slip gripping layer 8 on top surface 9 of
10 board 6.

Figure 3 shows board 6 in use. Specifically, Figure 3 depicts user 12 using board 6, to simulate using a snowboard or a skateboard, on trampoline 13. As noted above, in the embodiment shown, the feet are kept in position by way of securing members 7 and heel securing members 14, allowing user 12 to engage
15 in acrobatics on trampoline13 without having to hold on to board 6.

Although the present invention has been described primarily with respect to a finite number of embodiments, it will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that the invention also applies to many variations without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.